MACH METER

Vol. 51, No. 18 | Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. | May 12, 2006

AFSO21
Air Force Smart Ops For The 21st Century

COURTESY PHOTO

AFSO 21 Initiative

Because of the proprietary nature of the Cannon Energy Management Control Systems (EMCS), schematics were unobtainable, making in-house circuit card repairs almost impossible.

Cannon EMCS controllers researched and purchased the necessary equipment that allowed them the ability to repair the circuit cards in-house. The equipment was a $50,000 investment three years ago and was paid off in less than one year. It is estimated that Cannon will now save an average of $55,000 per year in this area.

Community Events

Hearts Apart for families

Spouses and family members of deployed or remote personnel are invited to the zoo from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday to spend an afternoon at the Clovis Zoo. Enjoy a picnic at the park afterward. Call 784-4228 to sign up.

Family photos

In honor of Military Spouse day, Airmen can have an individual or family photo taken at the Family Support Center Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Appointments are encouraged and required if pets are included. Airmen should bring a disk to store the photo or bring in a new, white T-shirt and the FSC will transfer the photo to the shirt at no charge.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Appreciation Day

Spouses may stop in the Family Support Center May 19 for a small token of appreciation and to enter a drawing for a free gift basket.

More Community Events on page 10

PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

More than a penny for his thoughts

Master Sgt. Ken Oswald, 27th Fighter Wing Flight Safety, stands next to an F-16 compressor case with a check for $5,663.25 he received May 4, Through the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) program. Sergeant Oswald improved the procedure for removing the compressor's blade lock, which saves the Air Force $120,000 and earned him $7,551 before taxes. During his 24-year career he has made about 2,000 suggestions and has earned $150,000 for the nearly 1,000 that were accepted and implemented. To learn how Sergeant Oswald's ideas contributed to the Air Force and his pocketbook, see page 2.

Security forces set plans for National Police Week activities

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 27th Security Forces Squadron is making plans to honor law enforcement officials throughout National Police Week, Sunday to May 20.

Security forces will host several events during Police Week to raise money to honor law enforcement officials who have lost their lives or been disabled in the line of duty. Funds will go to the National Fraternal Order of Police.

May 15 has been named National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week of May 15 has become National Police Week, since President John Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 on Oct. 1, 1962, according to the national cops Web site.

According to the Web site, a law enforcement officer gives his or her life for local citizens every 57 hours.

For more information on Police Week and services offered by the NFOP, see *www.nationalcops.org*.

Schedule of events

Sunday: A motorcycle rally and barbeque. Registration starts at 10 a.m. at the local Harley Davidson shop located on Mabry Drive in Clovis. The last bike will leave at 11:30 a.m., the end of registration.

The entrance fee is $15 per bike or $20 per couple and includes barbeque and a T-shirt.

The point of contact is Tech Sgt. Douglas Clayton at 784-2064.

Monday: A Jail and Bail starts at 10 a.m. next to the main gate.

■ **See POLICE WEEK, Page 5**

FEATURE

Good idea nets NCO big bucks

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"Good ideas are common. What's uncommon are people who'll work hard enough to bring them about," noted Ashleigh Brilliant, an author and syndicated cartoonist.

One of those uncommon people is Master Sgt. Ken Oswald, 27th Fighter Wing Flight Safety, who received a check in the mail from the Air Force for $5,663, after taxes, May 4 for having a good idea. It is just one of the nearly 1,000 payments he has received for almost 2,000 suggestions during his 24 years in uniform that add up to a tidy $150,000.

This most recent award is the result of once again seeing a problem and coming up with a solution.

While investigating a mishap that resulted in damage to an F-16 engine compressor case during the removal of a compressor blade lock, Sergeant Oswald found that though the technical order was followed to attempt to remove a screw, something had gone wrong. The screw to be removed by drilling it out had heated up during the drilling process, which caused it to harden and become brittle. This led to damage to the compressor case during subsequent attempts to remove the screw.

PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

Master Sgt. Ken Oswald, 27th Fighter Wing Safety, displays the check he received May 4 for his idea that will prevent an estimated $120,000 in future aircraft compressor damage.

Sergeant Oswald reasoned that the mishap could have been avoided if the stop sleeve used during the drilling processed was shortened.

Working with General Electric engineers, Sergeant Oswald found that the stop sleeve could be shortened, which would allow the drill bit to bore deeper and remove the screw more easily.

The changes Sergeant Oswald suggested will prevent an estimated $120,000 in future compressor damage.

One of the key factors to the number of Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) program suggestions he has made, comes from his job, Sergeant Oswald said. Maintainers are in the perfect position to submit solutions to the IDEA program, since they work directly with the jets and can often see how maintenance procedures can be refined to save time and money. "The IDEA program is a great innovative tool for the future of the Air Force and [Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century] initiatives," said Sergeant Oswald.

"From the old days of the suggestion program I've been awarded as little as $25, this is my largest [before taxes] check for $7,000," he said.

Not every idea submitted yields cash in his pocket. "I'm at about a 50 percent approval rate," said Sergeant Oswald. He encourages aircraft maintainers to submit ideas, since they are in the best position because they work directly with the jets and can often see how to improve routine maintenance procedures.

"The IDEA program is not a contest; therefore there are no winners or losers. The individual earns a cash reward for submitting an idea that is approved through a specific approval channel," said Staff Sgt. Anne Augustain, 27th Fighter Wing Mission Support Squadron, IDEA program manager.

So what does Sergeant Oswald plan to do with his earnings?

"I'm thinking about going back to England for a vacation with the family," he said. "We were stationed there earlier in my career and we enjoyed it. It would be nice to visit again."

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. APRIL WICKES

Master Sgt. Ken Oswald, 27th Fighter Wing Safety, received a check for $5,663 May 4 for an idea that saves the Air Force an estimated $120,000.

Considering the number of ideas he continues to offer to the Air Force, it won't be the last trip he takes, courtesy of his suggestions and the government's pocketbook.

If someone has an idea that they'd like to submit, go to *https://ipds.mont.disa.mil/IPDS/dv_new_home_page*, said Sergeant Augustain.

Desktop configuration coming for ACC network users

By Tech. Sgt. Russell Wicke
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

Air Combat Command is taking steps to standardize its 68,000 Windows-based computers by Dec. 31 — a change that will affect every Airman and Air Force civilian who uses a computer on the network.

The Standard Desktop Configuration, or SDC, is a first-time initiative that will provide every user with a standard operating system and improve network security.

Users can expect minor changes such as a small, green band running across the top of their screen declaring "Unclassified," and an upgrade of core applications such as Acrobat Reader, Internet Explorer, Office 2003 and more.

Every major command will have the same set of office automation tools and applications. Right now, the Air Force uses many versions of Windows including Windows XP, 2000 and NT. This project will standardize all desktop PCs. The plan calls for every Airman using Windows-based computers to have the same set of tools.

But the benefit comes with certain restrictions. The SDC enables the Windows firewall and removes administrative privileges from some users. According to Joe Lahouchuc, ACC Desktop Enterprise manager, this means users will no longer be able to add, update or remove PC applications.

"The firewall and the removal of administrative privileges mitigate internal security risks and Spyware threats," Mr. Lahouchuc said. "It's another layer of security."

Until recently, the Internet and major computer networks could be compared to the American "Wild West" — vast opportunities for expansion in lawless territory. Computer networks enable fast communications for the Department of Defense worldwide, but with so many individual users and computers in the Air Force, taking control of what goes on the network can be difficult business.

The SDC is more like the beginning of network and desktop "law" than a final solution, according to the Air Force Enterprise Configuration Management Office (AFECMO).

"The primary goal is PC and network security," AFECMO officials said. The project "combats the constant threat of hacker and virus attacks."

The project won't be implemented all at once. After a base is equipped with SDC, users may experience temporary setbacks such as having to reinstall printers and CAC credentials. Some cached e-mail addresses may be lost as well. Mr. Lahouchuc suggested network users back up their data to a shared drive or CD.

Although the change will likely happen at night, all base users will be notified in advance by a Notice to Airmen to allow time for backing up data.

Officials at AFECMO said all Air Force bases should be operating with SDC by December.

Currently, Airmen at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, are testing the project. Experts there have been experimenting with the program since November. Other Air Force bases testing SDC are Fairchild AFB, Wash., Laughlin AFB, Texas, and Schriever AFB, Colo.

"[The testing] is very manpower intensive," said Master Sgt. Dan Kunkel, 7th Communications Squadron Network Administration chief at Dyess. "We are working through the [program]to come up with a workable SDC model for ACC."

NEWS

OSI agents focus on force protection issues

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Cannon's Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 224, wants to remind Airmen of the duty to watch out for their fellow Airmen, report illegal drug activity and protect the resources of the United States.

From April 2005 to April 2006, Det. 224 conducted 12 drug investigations; up from nine cases the previous year. Currently, 50 percent of all cases investigated by the detachment are drug related.

Using the message of "you can run, but you can't hide," for those using or inclined to use drugs, OSI uses every resource available to conduct drug investigations at Cannon.

"Anyone that we even have an assumption about, we're going to try to get a urinalysis," said Special Agent Jason McMackin.

Drugs in the military are a force protection issue that affects combat readiness, morale and good military order, said OSI officials. Illegal drug use can lead to felonies such as rape or sexual assault, driving under the influence or health problems such as brain damage or death. The risk of a "high" air traffic controller or maintenance troop means military lives are at stake.

But OSI agents work to be proactive, rather than cleaning up the chaos of poor decisions.

"We want to stop the drugs before they get here," Agent McMackin said. Their goal is to reach maintainers and others who work on F-16's so that a pilot will not operate a jet maintained by someone under the influence of narcotics. They also want to ensure the pilot isn't flying under the influence of narcotics.

Whether being proactive or cleaning up, OSI Det. 224 does not work alone. Instead, they work with local law enforcement agencies to provide knowledge of illegal activity. All strings of knowledge from these liaisons must be tied together by a military connection, which may be as seemingly insignificant as a Cannon decal on a vehicle, said Agent McMackin.

While appearing insignificant, details are never taken lightly.

"The danger level is high because of the association with gangs," said Agent McMackin, who with Special Agent Luke Wert predicts that gang and drug problems could worsen at Cannon if a larger mission comes to the base.

Although Airmen spend most of their time on base, they should be aware of gang influences showing up in the military. Gang leaders are keeping members' records clean in order to get them into the military to receive training. Upon separating from the military, they take the training back to the gang, said Agent McMackin.

Whether by personal use or gang dispersion, illegal drugs travel around bases, and are likened to constantly moving targets, with the drugs of choice by Airmen being marijuana and methamphetamines. It is also a well-known fact that the sale of illegal narcotics has been utilized to finance terrorist activities, said Special Agent Tanya R. Harrison, Commander, AFOSI Det. 224.

"All individuals need to be aware of their surroundings, regardless of the terrorist threat. Be very vigilant in what you are doing when you are in town. Do not get into [bad] situations. Report anything you see," Agent McMackin said.

OSI agents are fact-finders only; they do not give consequences to drug users, but they want the message loud and clear that what they find can influence consequences and affect an Airman's military career. Punishments can include court-martial, dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of pay and allowances, imprisonment and felony convictions.

"Because of most of the commanders' zero tolerance policies out here, [Airmen] are more than likely going to be separated from the military," Agent McMackin said, acknowledging the decision also hinges on an Airman's job, security clearance and circumstances surrounding the situation.

Airmen who suspect another troop is illegally using drugs have several options for reporting, such as first sergeants or supervisors, their commander or OSI. Airmen can assist Det. 224 in combating illegal drugs by calling 784-2511 to report illegal drug activity. Callers can remain anonymous.

Airmen are obligated by law and safety concerns to report illegal drug use, said Agent Wert. "Failure to report can mean [being] charged with a crime, if throughout the course of an investigation, we find out [an Airman] knew."

Additional information provided by Agent Harrison.

PHOTOS BY GREG ALLEN

Slowing 'em down

(Left) Senior Airman William Nobel, 27th Security Forces,Squadron gets ready to clock a vehicle's speed leaving the main gate at Cannon May 5. Drivers will notice an increased presence at the gates because of speeding vehicles, said Tech. Sgt. Rich Jones, 27th SFS. Vehicles speeding out the gate faster than the posted 5 mph causes damage to the pop-up barriers (top). Speeding tickets will cost active duty personnel at least three points. Non active duty individuals will be fined $15 for speeding one to 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Sergeant Jones said plans are under way to install speed bumps to further deter speeding drivers.

Air Force mandates virtual outprocessing

Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center

All Airmen undergoing permanent change-of-station moves, retirements or separations are now required to use the Virtual Outprocessing application available through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

Airmen can enter the vMPF by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site where they can view their vOP checklist from the individual actions menu.

The vOP checklist will include requirements based on the Airman's unit and other associated base agencies, such as the transportation management office, finance, medical clinic and Tricare. The checklist also will include the timeframe required for clearing actions at each location.

For more information, Airmen should contact base military personnel flight at 784-2094.

COMMENTARY

Leave it better than you found it with AFSO-21

By Maj. Matt Powell
27th Component Maintenance Squadron commander

Two years ago I wrote an article for the *Mach Meter* and advised readers to "Leave it Better Than You Found it." To support that advice I described the following scenario:

You just arrived in your new shop at your new base of assignment. You walk in on your first day, full of energy and enthusiasm and encounter something you didn't expect to see — an absolute mess. The carpets and floors are stained and dirty, files and paperwork are strewn about, furniture and equipment are antiquated and the section's personnel seem to be aimlessly milling about. You ask your sponsor, "Why do things look this way?" and all he or she can tell you is "Yeah I know, this place is messed up, but that's how it was when I arrived too." You decide to talk to your section chief. You walk into the office and encounter an unmotivated, physically unfit supervisor, surfing the Internet in a disheveled uniform. You decide not to ask why the shop is in such disarray because you already know the answer.

When I wrote the above paragraph, I was encouraging all Airmen to do their part to eliminate the culture of apathy at all levels that allows a section or unit to mire itself in mediocrity. It's easy to fall into the trap of accepting that "things have always been this way." After all, it takes a lot of effort to make a difference, it is hard work. But "it's the hard that makes it great."

Our Air Force is asking us to improve upon our past success by working hard, making a difference and leaving it better than we found it.

Make the promise to yourself and your squadron that whether fresh out of tech school or in your 29th year of dedicated service to our nation that you will leave your section, squadron, wing and your Air Force better than you found them.

Develop a better program, streamline a process, eliminate wasted manhours on tasks that provide no value to your unit. Put 100 percent effort toward every task.

Don't accept "that's the way things have always been" as an excuse for inactivity. Get involved and apply leadership at the lowest level and you will undoubtedly leave things better than you found them.

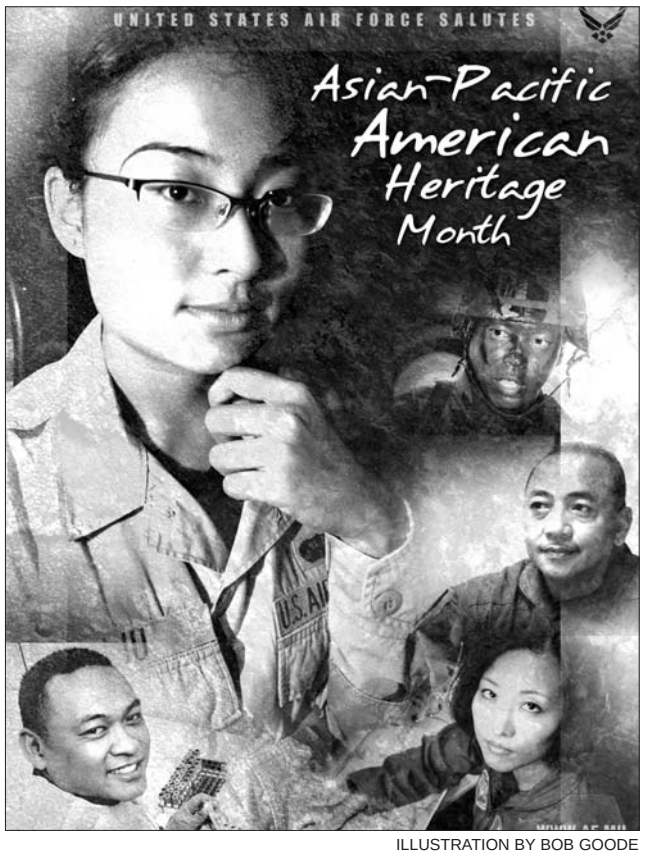

ILLUSTRATION BY BOB GOODE

Airman 1st Class Li Yiu, 27th Services Squadron, is featured on this year's Asian-Pacific Heritage poster.

Asian-Pacific heritage add to American mosaic

By Special Agent Joseph LaVille
Office of Special Investigation, Detachment 224 commander

An area studies professor at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, asked our class to describe the "Asian-Pacific culture."

As we tried, we had to account for the largest landmass and ocean area in the world. We also had to keep in mind individuals from nearly 30 different countries and countless islands, each with a unique historical and cultural heritage.

Some used descriptions such as family-centric, studious, hardworking, money-saving and mainly Oriental. However, the more we discussed, the more we realized that it is an amazingly large area with great diversity.

So, how is it possible to write a short article about a very diverse group in recognition of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month? Let's start with the official celebration of Asian-Pacific American heritage. It began in 1978, but was celebrated for only one week in May. The Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was enacted by Public Law on Oct. 28, 1992. The purpose was to honor the achievements of Asian-Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to the United States.

The month of May was selected for this recognition because two significant events in history took place in that month: Japanese immigrants first arrived in the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day) by a majority of Chinese immigrants.

Asian-Pacific Americans have added to the American mosaic. The Chinese were the first Asians to arrive in large numbers in the 1800s, with a boom during the California gold rush. Another large group was the Japanese, but mainly in Hawaii and California. At the beginning of the 1900s, Filipinos began to immigrate in significant numbers after the Philippines came under U.S. control following the Spanish-American War.

Asian-Pacific immigration continues from just about every country. Today, there are more than 13 million Americans who claim their heritage to be Asian-Pacific.

Asian-Pacific people have even influenced our military development. There are few students of military strategy who have not studied the Chinese teachings of Sun Tsu or read the book "Art of War." About 3 percent of our Air Force lists their heritage as Asian-Pacific.

A memorable event occurred in May 1987 for an Air Force Asian-Pacific American — Hoang Nhu Tran, a former refugee.

■ See AMERICAN MOSAIC, Page 5

MACH METER

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News articles, local notes and other items for the ***MACH METER*** should be brought to the 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 110 E Sextant Ave. Suite 1099, or e-mailed to the Mach Meter at *27fwmachmeter@cannon.af.mil*.

All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity and brevity, conformance with the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual and with Air Force Instruction 35-101. Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the Public Affairs office at 784-4131.

If you have a suggestion you would like to make, or a kudo you'd like to give, call the ***ACTION LINE at 784-2722*** — If you have a problem you need resolved, call the responsible agency first so they can provide better service to everyone promptly.

Deadline for submitting articles is noon Friday the week prior to publication. Deadline for free classified advertisements is noon, the Tuesday prior to publication.

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NEWS

POLICE WEEK

Continued from Page1

The points of contact are Staff Sgt. Alan Clontz and Staff Sgt. Mia Joyner at 784-6464.

There is no minimum buy in and the event is open to base populace.

Airmen cannot be in uniform while "apprehending" individuals. Also, they cannot use government vehicles for transportation to or from the jail.

Tuesday: A security forces display featuring fingerprinting for children and a bike rodeo starts at 10 a.m. at the base commissary lobby and parking lot. The point of contact is Senior Airman Brian Flanagan at 784-2625:

Activities:

— Fingerprinting for children.

— Mobile Command trailer.

— K-9 demo.

— Bicycle rodeo where the serial numbers of children's bicycles can be recorded.

Thursday: The Law Enforcement Pistol Shoot and Barbecue starts at 9 a.m. at the base range. Everyone on base is invited but must bring their own personal weapons and two magazines. No weapons larger than a 45-caliber will be allowed.

The point of contact is Staff Sgt. August Bradley at 784-2820

Sign up is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. unless pre-registered.

The cost is $10 and included in price is the barbecue, or barbecue alone is $5 per person.

May 19: A golf tournament starts at noon at Whispering Winds.

A security forces retreat ceremony starts at 4:30 p.m. at the base flag in front of Bldg. 1. Participants and observers need to be in place by 4 p.m. The points of contact are Staff Sgt. Christine Tims and Airman 1st Class Joshua Jacobson at 784-4928.

May 20: A softball tournament and barbecue begins at 10 a.m. at the fields adjacent to the base commissary. Points of contact are Staff Sgt. Jesus Mercado and Staff Sgt. Christine Tims at 784-4822.

Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m.

Entry fee is $15 and includes the barbecue.

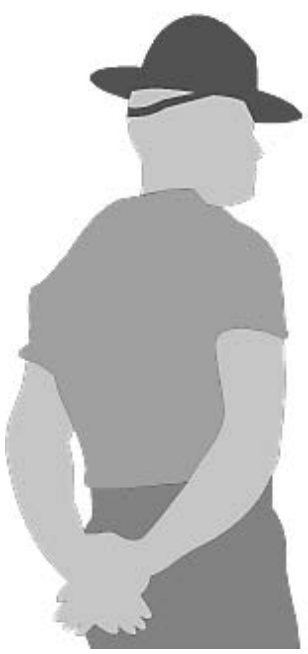
AMERICAN MOSAIC

Continued from Page 4

He graduated as valedictorian of the U.S. Air Force Academy in a class of 950 students. He was also a Rhodes Scholar and Time Magazine's recipient of the 1986 College Achievement Award.

One article cannot cover all the aspects of a diverse group like the Asian-Pacific Americans.

May is your chance to learn about their heritage.



Sgt. Afi's 36-2903

Tip of the Week

Airmen are prohibited from intentionally altering or modifying their bodies to achieve a visible, physical effect that disfigures, deforms or detracts from a professional military image.

Examples include tongue splitting, tooth filing and acquiring visible disfiguring implants.

FEATURE

Airborne Airmen, Soldiers jump together

By Rich Lamance
Air Force Print News

The Air Force lost a shade of blue last week when more than 30 airborne-qualified Airmen and their counterparts from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division jumped into a simulated unusable airfield during a Joint Forced Entry Exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The exercise tested the teams' abilities to "jump out of a plane, get to an air base first, bed down, clean the runway to prepare the air base for coalition occupation and bring in Air Force airplanes," said Col. William Kolakowski, commander of the 820th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer, or RED HORSE unit, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. His unit was one of two Air Force airborne engineer flights involved in the exercise.

The joint Air Force and Army engineer teams combined the best of both engineering worlds, said Navy Chief Petty Officer Peter Phillips, a Seabee builder chief attached to the 820th RED HORSE. He said the exercise took rapid deployment engineering to a new level.

"This exercise has opened the doors for two great forces to get the job done faster and safer. The Army provides great support and security, while the Air Force brings great construction skills and the fast-paced movements of both provide an outstanding team," Chief Phillips said.

The exercise provided both sides the opportunity to take away valuable lessons on getting an enemy airfield quickly ready for friendly use.

"I've learned two different types of crater explosive charges, as well as different security and defensive techniques the Army uses," said Senior Airman Bryan Le, a pavements and heavy equipment specialist with the 820 RED HORSE.

Working with the Army in airborne operations brings a valuable card to the table, said Staff Sgt. Randy Dobson, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader, also from Nellis.

"Army Sappers (combat engineers) clear runways fast and with limited equipment, sometimes with no equipment at all.They are soldiers above all else and protect us as they would their own family. They called us the subject matter experts and that's a lot of what we brought to the table," Sergeant Dobson said.

Army engineers have shown their Air Force counterparts a more physical side of their job, said Staff Sgt. Mitchell Romag, a pavements and equipment operator.

"The Army operates on a more tactical level, whereas the Air Force works more on a technical level, "Sergeant Romag said. "We each had something to contribute. This exercise was done on a much grander scale than what I'm used to in the Air Force. The Army trains to fight."

But the training was far from one-sided, said Army Capt. Mike Scioletti, commander of Company A, 325th Special Troops Battalion, a unit of the 82nd Airborne Division. He said the Army had a lot to learn from their Air Force engineer brethren.

"We learned a lot of great techniques for crater repair, along with new equipment and we learned that their training is a lot more advanced than we anticipated. They were repairing craters in about 65 to 70 minutes at night ... that's about three times quicker than where we're at right now," the captain said.

"There are also Air Force [explosive ordnance disposal] teams out there with us, helping us work on Air Force munitions in and around the flight landing strip, unexploded ordnance and how to dispose of them, which ones we can handle and which ones we can't. It was really good training," Captain Scioletti said.

Colonel Kolakowski believes that "times are a changing," and old perceptions of how the Air Force operates are quickly being transformed into the realities of a joint force.

"There is a horrible perception that we sit back at our air bases and project forward and drink our tea and play our golf," the colonel said. He believes those perceptions are dying hard.

"We are here to stay," Colonel Kolakowski said. "You'll see in basic training and right out of tech school, these guys are grabbing their M-16s right away and get used to carrying them.

"We just got back from an Iraqi mission, working with the 101st Airborne Division. It was a full joint mission — my boss was an Army one-star general," the colonel said. "We were in convoys, performing combat logistics patrols, doing crater repair on the main highway out of Baghdad, and any time an [improvised explosive device] caused a crater in a part of the road, we had to fill them up right away, so we would have a safe road for Army and Air Force convoys."

Air Force involvement in this exercise is just one example of how the service will fit into future combat roles, said Tech. Sgt. David Keeley, an airborne utilities specialist with the 823 RED HORSE at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

"The Air Force traditionally stays at the rear and projects the fight to the enemy in the form of fighter and bomber aircraft support, with few Airmen put in harm's way," Sergeant Keeley said. "This program will make the burden shared across the board and give the Air Force equal status in the trenches."

Staff Sgt. Flavio Perez, 820 RED HORSE at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., has his chute rigging inspected by an Army jumpmaster before a jump at Fort Bragg, N.C., on April 25. Airmen and more than 2,000 Soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division were taking part in a joint exercise.

PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT WAGERS

Tech. Sgt. Paul Schaaf waits to board a C-130 Hercules that will transport him to a drop zone at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., on April 25. Airmen and more than 2,000 Soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division were taking part in a Joint Forcible Entry Exercise. Sergeant Schaaf is assigned to the 820th Security Forces Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Thirty other jump-qualified Air Force engineers, firefighters, and security forces Airmen took part in th exercise.

FEATURES

Career certificates will walk the talk for you

27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Career Readiness Certificate is a portable skills credential that is easily and universally understood and valued by employers, educators and recipients in that it facilitates job placement, retention and advancement in today's mobile society.

These credentials describes exactly what the holder can do and supplements a high school diploma, college degree, work experience and may work as stand-alone credentials.

These assessments are free.

The Career Readiness Certificate is based on three WorkKeys assessments: applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information. These certificates are awarded at three levels: Bronze (level 3), Silver (level 4) and Gold (level 5).

WorkKeys is a product of the American College Testing Program (ACT) and has become a widely accepted common language for skills definition among employers, educators, trainers and potential or incumbent employees.

Governor Bill Richardson's office is anticipating that the CRC will be available early Summer 2006. Acceptable WorkKeys scores will generate a retroactive CRC to qualifying participants.

WorkKeys is offered at 9 a.m. May 22 at the Family Support Center. Each test will take 45 minutes, with results available in less than one week. It is available to active duty, separating or retiring active duty members, spouses and high school-age dependants. Contact the FSC at 784-4228 to register.

Other assessment locations include the New Mexico Workforce in Clovis and Portales, or the New Mexico Department of Labor.

Spouses of Airmen who were employed at previous duty stations may be eligible for funding for education, training, re-training, child care and transportation reimbursements while attending school if they worked at the last duty station and left their job due to a Permanent Change of Station move. Spouses can file for unemployment insurance through the Department of Labor at their last duty station once they are available for work at the new duty station. Many Department of Labor locations allow online applications.

To make an appointment at the New Mexico Workforce Connection at 1404 Main Street in Clovis, N.M., call 763-3155, or the Portales office at 100 S. Avenue A, Suite 110 at 365-4720 to determine eligibility.

For more information, contact FSC or Trina Miller at 762-7714 or *tmiller@epcog.org*.

Easy moves require planning on part of Airmen, DoD

Courtesy of Cannon Traffic Management Office

Airmen expecting to transfer to a new assignment this summer should know it is the peak season for Department of Defense personal property moves.

According to Lt. Col. David Holt, Colorado Springs Joint Personal Property Shipping Office (JPPSO) director, their focus is on getting members' requested move dates early to reduce stress throughout their move process. During peak season, commercial moving companies will be saturated and their capacity to accept moves will be limited as many moving dates fill up quickly. As a general rule, the last week of the month is the busiest time for moves.

Colonel Holt suggests the following tips to help alleviate stress that may arise during moving:

1) Make an appointment upon receiving new assignment orders and not later than 45 days in advance of the requested pack and pick-up dates. This allows adequate time for the booking section to get a carrier arranged. After a carrier is booked, Airmen will receive an automated phone call followed by an e-mail confirming the carrier, local agent, contact information, and pack and pick-up dates. These dates will not be changed unless there is an emergency situation.

2) Provide correct contact information for pickup origin, in-transit and destination. A cell phone is helpful for easy contact throughout the move process.

3) Airmen should ask questions if they are uncertain about a particular entitlement or move process.

4) Upon reporting to the new duty station, Airmen should immediately contact the destination Travel Management Office with contact information and delivery instructions. Not contacting the destination TMO to provide updated contact information often results in inconvenience and possible costs to the servicemember. The destination TMO usually has two hours to notify Airmen of the shipment arrival and to make a decision to either put the property in temporary storage or deliver it to the Airman's residence. Items placed in storage could take several days or weeks to retrieve during the summer, depending on location.

Airmen should be pro-active and involved in the move process from counseling appointment to final delivery. The local TMO is focused on personal property move counseling and providing quality control inspectors, requiring timely communication between Airmen, the TMO and JPPSO.

General information on moving household goods and helpful topics for getting ready for a move are available on the Air Force Move Web site home page at *afmove.hq.af.mil*. Other questions can be referred to the local TMO counselor at 784-2301 or the quality control section at 784-6375.

Retiring Air Force Chief reflects on 29-year career

By Carl Bergquist
42nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

After 29 years of service, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said that his Air Force career has been rewarding, exciting and gone farther than he could have imagined.

"For a guy who joined the service because he needed a job to end up Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force was far more than I ever expected," said Chief Murray at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., Monday. "What I'm most proud of in my career was having the privilege and opportunity to lead and represent the more than 440,000 enlisted members of the service."

Before becoming chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Murray said there were two great events in his life. The first was marrying his wife, Sherry, and the second was joining the Air Force because the economy was bad and he needed work.

Once in the Air Force, Chief Murray said he wanted to be in a front-line position and requested a fighter maintenance job. The Air Force gave him what he wanted and he worked with the F-4 Phantom, F-16 Fighting Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt II. He had 11 maintenance assignments during that segment of his career.

"Desert Storm was a monumental [time] in my career because the Air Force gave me the opportunity to use my skills at a forward operating base," he said.

Chief Murray said he had set a goal for himself as a staff sergeant that if he stayed in the Air Force, he was going to make chief. Once he made chief, his next goal was to be superintendent of a fighter group and he also fulfilled that goal. He said he never wanted to be a command chief, or senior enlisted advisor as they were called at the time, and never entertained the idea of being chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

"Becoming a chief was a highlight of my career but I had a lot to learn," he said. "I had become 'stove-piped' in maintenance and now found myself having to deal with all aspects of the Air Force.

As for what's next in his life, Chief Murray said he really doesn't have any hard plans for the future. He's looking at several opportunities, to include continuing his education or possibly government service as a civilian. He also plans to build a house "with (his) own two hands" and hike the entire Appalachian Trail.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pet of the Week

This cute schnauzer mix is available for adoption. For more information about dogs or cats that are available, call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Personal and Family Readiness

Pre-Remote briefings are from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday and May 24 and 31. This briefing is mandatory for anyone going on a remote tour.

Pre-Deployment briefings are held from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday and May 22. Information about deployment and programs for family members are discussed. A $20 phone card is given to all members deploying more than 30 days, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society.

Both briefings will be held at the Family Support Center. Call to reserve a seat. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend any of these briefings.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Tricare for retirees

Tricare for Retirees is from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Support Center. The class provides information on Tricare benefits after retirement. For more information or to register, call the FSC at 784-4228.

John Fondrick, the Cannon Veteran's Administration representative, will offer three seminars on Tuesday, at the Family Support Center.

For more information or to register, call 784-4228.

Blood drive

A blood drive is at 10 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Wednesday at Bldg. 620. Sign up at *www.bloodhero.com*. The sponsor code word is "airplane."

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Loretta Washington at 784-2837.

West Perimeter Road closed

West Perimeter road will be closed 7:45 to 8:45 a.m May 25 due to the Gate-to-Gate run. Vehicles can use South Perimeter road and the Portales gate during these hours.

Memorial Day invitation

Everyone is invited to the Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m., May 29 at the Mission Gardens Cemetery flagpole. The ceremony will last about 30 minutes.

FEATURE

Cannon couple help give direction

Foster parents offer love to help children flourish

(Editor's note: The children in this article are not identified to protect their privacy.)

Story and photo by Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Doherty home is filled with big brown eyes and giggles all around from having a case of what Jennifer Doherty calls "the sillies."

But the wiggling little bodies emanating the giggles are a far cry from the children who walked into the Doherty home — and their hearts — seven months ago.

That's how long she and her husband, Capt. Jay Doherty, 27th Maintenance Operations Squadron, have been foster parents to the three siblings. And they love to tell how much the children have flourished during the time they have spent together.

When the children first came to their home, Mrs. Doherty said Jay would look at one of the little girls and she would freeze. But over the months she has warmed up to the couple. "Look at her; she can't stop smiling," said Captain Doherty, obviously pleased with how far they have all come.

But any parent, natural or otherwise, knows that rearing children is not all fun and games.

"You have to remember that when you get these children into your home they are terrified. They don't know what's going on. You give them all the love you can. It's not going to be an overnight thing, but you gradually start to see changes," said Mrs. Doherty.

The changes often come about as a result of the children knowing what to expect. Military families can offer the structure for children who have never known a routine, said Renee Fitts, a foster and adoptive parent recruiter for Children, Youth and Families Department.

Mrs. Doherty said daily routines help bring about the needed changes and feels that this is something the military family is geared toward. "They basically know what's going on everyday," she said.

Two of Jennifer and Capt. Jay Doherty's foster children enjoy their bicycle and tricycle in front of the Doherty home.

Structure and routines lay the groundwork for more enjoyable times between children and the foster parents. "When you work with [the children] and get them to make the positive steps, it is so rewarding. You know that you have worked with them to help them love … attach," said Mrs. Doherty.

It's evident that the children and the Dohertys have attached themselves to each other, as the children call them Momma Jenn and Daddy Jay.

"Their social workers have been good about talking to them about [the fact that] it's okay to love two moms, and it's okay to love two dads, because they don't understand that," said Mrs. Doherty. "We are not their mom and dad. By calling us by first names, too, it gives them some separation and clarification."

Unfortunately, there are times when foster children and foster parents are not a good fit with each other, but it's okay to admit things are not working out. "[The state] doesn't look down on you for asking the children to be placed somewhere else," said Mrs. Doherty. "They want what is best for the children."

It is asked that if this is the case, that the foster parents allow the state 10 days to make the transition, said Renee Fitts, Children, Youth and Families Department.

While everyone involved wants the best for the children, self-preservation of the adults involved is also addressed. "You have to be an advocate for yourself," said Mrs. Doherty.

Her husband reinforced this by saying, "You have to know what you can handle, what you can't handle, and a lot of times you won't know until you actually get a child in your home."

Parents and the children they care for need support from families who understand their particular needs. The

■ See DIRECTION, Page 15

PHOTO BY JANET TAYLOR-BIRKEY

Jennifer and Capt. Jay Doherty, 27th Maintenance Operations Squadron, hug three siblings who live with them as part of the New Mexico foster program.

Foster parenting begins with the paperwork

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: The following information is from an interview with Renee Fitts, foster and adoptive parent recruiter for the Children, Youth & Families Department.)

The first step to becoming a foster parent is to become licensed through the application process and complete 27 hours of training. This process usually takes four to six months.

A home assessment is completed by a licensed social worker, where the social worker and the family talk about the family's past, history, and how they would tackle issues with the children. Grief and loss issues for when the children return to their homes are discussed also.

Foster parents receive a supplement up to $480 per month. Medicaid handles medical bills for the children and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) subsidy program helps with food costs. Other expenses such as a vacation allowance, car seats, some activities such as sports, ballet, etc. may also be covered by subsidies.

Foster families can choose the age, gender, ethnicity and needs level of the child and may be allowed to adopt the children they foster.

According to the CYFD Web site, there are 119 children in foster care, and 31 foster families in Curry County.

For more information, call (505) 624-6071.

FEATURE

Penny pinchers

Staff Sgt. Tanya Vinson and Tech. Sgt. Heather Jones, 27th Comptroller Squadron, count pennies May 4 following a squadron fundraising event for Relay for Life. Points were awarded for pennies and deducted for silver coins brought in. The Budget/Account Liaison Office won the competition. The total amount collected was $422.84.

PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

DIRECTION

Continued from Page 11

Clovis Foster Parent Association helps the families by providing group parties, other social activities and on-going training for licensing requirements. "We get together to support each other," said Mrs. Doherty, adding that Airmen in her husband's squadron are very willing to help if the family needs something while he may be deployed.

Respite care is another form of support, providing foster families with four days off per month, said Ms. Fitts. The state also provides money for daycare, which give the parents a break and help children with their social and educational development, said Mrs. Doherty.

Many Airmen may feel the desire to be a foster parent, but for various reasons cannot commit to full-time care. Respite care is one option without making a long-term commitment. When offering respite care, licensed foster families care for children during times such as weekends that will allow everyone to have a break.

Rewards and breaks come as a result of sometimes unforeseen challenges. When asked what he thinks is one the biggest challenges, Captain Doherty replied, "The unexpected. You don't know what can trigger a reaction from them. You ask them a question and they just freeze up. Something that you did not think was a big deal, had some sort of flashback, triggered some kind of memory."

"But in the seven months [we've had the children], we've overcome that. They have learned to trust us and we have learned to trust ourselves a little more," Mrs. Doherty said.

"These kids have had a rough life and by being a foster parent, you are able to have a positive influence … for however long you have them," said Captain Doherty.

Knowing a separation is eventually coming is not easy, but "you just have to look at it that children are meant to be with their parents," said Mrs. Doherty.

What's happening?

Friday
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef Sub $3 Members First
Seafood Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Yu-Gi-Oh Challenge Plus — 4 p.m. at the Clovis CC*
Steak Special — 5 to 9 p.m. at The Landing
All Night Party — 9 p.m. at The Landing

Saturday
Yard Sale — 8 a.m. a the Clovis CC
Quilting Class — 10 a.m. at the Central CC

Sunday
Mother's Day Brunch — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Landing
Mother's Day Bowling — noon at Cannon Lanes

Monday
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef sub $3 Members First
Jr. & Sr. Cheer — 4 to 6 p.m. at the Clovis CC
Chess Club — 5 to 6 p.m. at the Portales CC
Community Theater — 6:30 p.m. at the Central CC

Tuesday
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef sub $3 Members First
Oriental Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Country Fried Steak — 5 p.m. at The Landing
Pool Tournament – 4 to 6 p.m. at the Portales CC

Wednesday
Punt, Pass and Kick Contest — 11 a.m. at the fitness center
Penny Pincher Daily Lunch Special — Cup of Soup and half a Roast Beef sub $3 Members First
Italian Buffet — 11 a.m. at The Landing
Foosball Tournament — 5 to 6 p.m. at the Portales CC
Country Fried Steak — 5 to 8 p.m. at The Landing
Family Night — 6:30 p.m. at the Clovis CC

Thursday
Story Time — 10:30 at the Cannon Library
Tween Torch Club — 4:30 p.m. at the Youth Center
Mother and Son Ping Pong Tournament — 6 to 8 p.m. at the Clovis CC
Steak Special — 5 to 9 p.m. at The Landing

*** CC — Community Center WWGC — Whispering Winds Golf Course CDC — Child Development Center**

Unit Spotlights

Congratulations Cannon Diamond Sharp Award Winners

PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRIAN ELLIS

Senior Airman William Noble,
27th Security Forces Squadron
Sponsored by: Master Sgt. George Childers, 1st Sergeants Association*

Airman 1st Class Steven Shirley,
27th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Sponsored by: Nicola Carter, Army and Air Force Exchange Services

Airman Valerie Mangiero,
27th Services Squadron
Sponsored by: Diane Antill, Cannon Federal Credit Union

*Sponsors donate $50 in cash or gift certificates to each winner. Cannon Federal Credit Union contributes to a celebration breakfast as well. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Chief's Coin recipients

Capt. Stefanie Jose, *27th Services Squadron*

Tech. Sgt. Lara Burback, *27th Mission Support Squadron*
Tech. Sgt. Tyron Grant, *27th Communications Squadron*
Tech. Sgt. James Ring, *610th Reserve Recruiting Flight*
Richard Hailey, *27th Mission Support Squadron*

Chapel Schedule

CATHOLIC

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 8:30 a.m. Sundays and 4 to 4:30 p.m. the third Sunday of the month.

Sunday Mass	9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Weekday Mass	12:05 p.m. M,W,F
Religious Education (grades K-6)	10:45 a.m. Sunday
LifeTeen youth ministry (grades 7-12)	6 p.m. Sunday

PROTESTANT

Little Blessings children's class (under four years old) is available during all services and Wednesday ministries.

Sunday Services:	
Traditional Service	8 a.m.
Contemporary Service	11 a.m.
Fellowship	Noon
Inspirational	12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Services	
Prepared meal (small donation requested)	5:30 p.m.
AWANA (Three years old to 6th grade)	6:15 p.m.
CrossFaith (grades 7-12)	6:15 p.m.
Alpha Course (Cyber Café)	6:15 p.m.
Old Fashioned Bible Study	6:15 p.m.

At the Movies

The Cannon Movie Theater is located on the corner of Torch and D.L. Ingram.
Movie prices are $3.50 for adults, $1.75 for children and $1 for all viewers on Thursdays.

Slither

Today and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Description: A small town in America — somewhat quaint and gentle, is peopled with friendly folks who mind their own business. But just beneath the surface charm, something unnamed and evil has arrived and is growing.
R: strong horror violence and gore, and language
Running time: 96 min.

ATL

Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m.

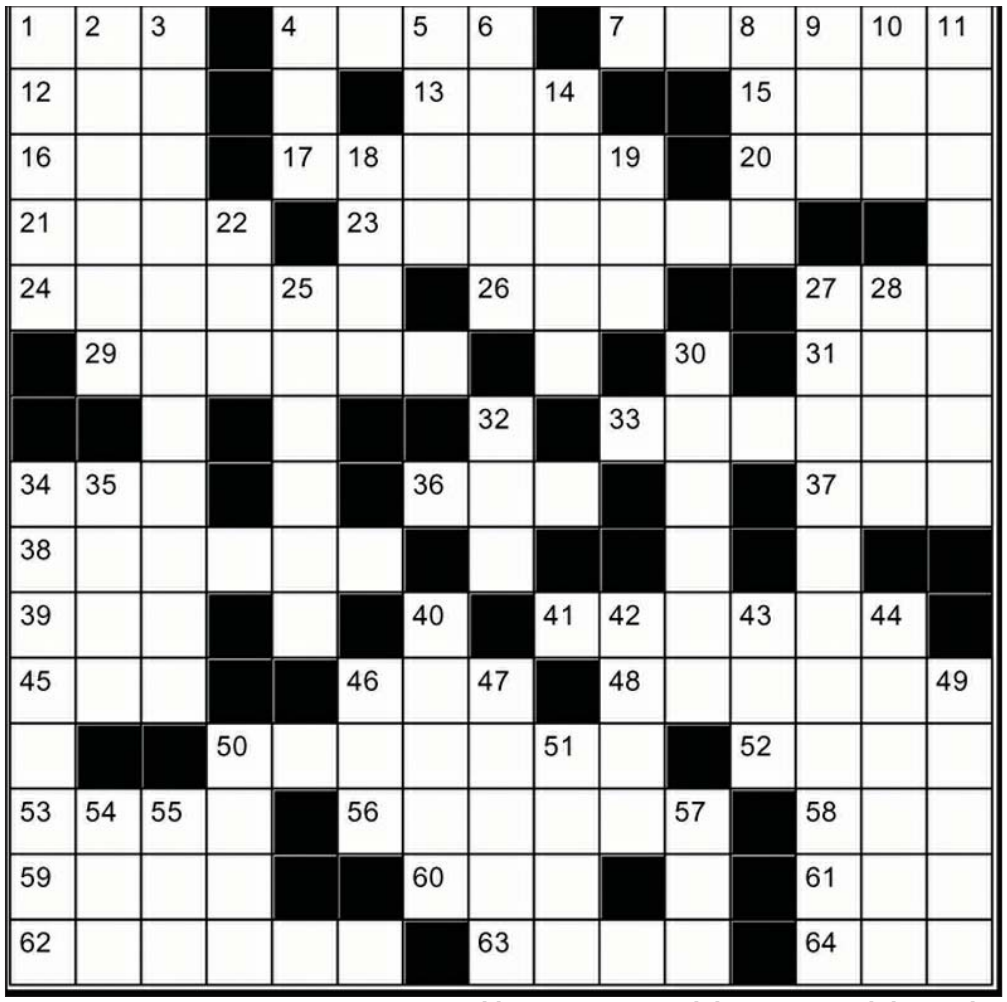
Description: ATL tells the story of four teens coming of age in a working class Atlanta neighborhood where hip-hop music and roller skating rule. Loosely based on Dallas Austin and Tionne Watkins' experiences growing up in Atlanta
PG-13: drug content, language, sexual material and some violence
Running time: 107 min.

Basic Instinct 2

Sunday at 7 p.m.

Description: After re-locating from San Francisco to London, best-selling crime novelist Catherine Trammell (Sharon Stone) once again finds herself on the wrong side of the law.
R: strong sexuality, nudity, violence, language and some drug content
Running time: 114 min

The Lighter Side



Created by Capt. Tony Wickman, 71st Fighter Wing

Honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage

ACROSS

1. Asian architect of Vietnam Memorial
4. First Asian-American woman to hold a presidential cabinet post
7. Antelope
12. Asian-American musician/performance artist married to Lennon
13. Israeli machine gun
15. Saga
16. Dupe
17. Place for the car
20. Odyssey
21. Writer Vonnegut
23. Actress Lucy of Xena
24. Shoe item
26. Internet provider
27. Asian-American writer of "The Joy Luck Club"
29. Trust account
31. Tarzan once
33. Ski
34. Type of fish
36. Chinese-American actor/director Bruce
37. Military abbrev. for date to leave service
38. Peaks
39. Japanese currency
41. Foreigner in Japan
45. Tolkien character
46. Pub brew
48. Stadiums
50. Having two opposite or contradictory ideas or natures
52. Type of USAF Sgt.
53. Dog food brand
56. Tibetan guide on Himalayan expedition
58. '70s musical group ___ Na Na
59. High time?
60. Era
61. Charged particle
62. Ellipse
63. Asian-American entrepreneur, co-founder of Yahoo.com
64. Compass direction

DOWN

1. First Chinese-American governor
2. Asian-American leader who helped establish APA Heritage
3. Foreigner
4. Sprocket
5. Glow
6. Chinese music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra
8. Dogs and cats
9. Foreign address
10. Chinese-American actress Lucy of Charlie's Angels
11. Military abbrevs.
14. Frozen house?
18. Singing voice
19. Snakelike fish
22. Love, in short
25. Deleted
27. Movement of objects by scientifically inexplicable means
28. Much
30. Potion
32. Chinese-American architect of glass pyramid of the Louvre
34. First U.S. governor of Filipino ancestry
35. Ajar
40. Greeting in Hawaii
42. Retired person's org.
43. Chinese action movie star Li
44. Movie snack
46. USAF unit responsible for tactical airlift (abbrev.)
47. Sorrowful song
49. 1953 George Stevens Western movie
50. U2 singer
51. Region
54. Toss
55. Country on the Baltic Sea (abbrev.)
57. Director Lee of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

AIR POWER EXPO 2006
Cannon AFB, New Mexico
Free and Open to the Public.
Parking Opens at 9 a.m. May 27.
USAF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
USAF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
60
Clovis
60
Cannon AFB
467
70
Portales Gate
467
Enter Through the Portales Gate
Portales
27TH FIGHTER WING
www.cannon.af.mil/airexpo06

Sports & Health

PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

Ready for the challenge

Airman 1st Class Mark Maddon, 27th Security Forces Squadron, practices for the 2nd Annual Cannon Chief's Group push-up and sit-up challenge at 2 p.m. today at the fitness center. The fundraiser supports local causes such as the Enlisted Spouses Club scholarship program.

Cannon Lanes

Mystery Price Game — 6 to 9 p. m., Saturday. One person in each party draws a ticket for the cost of each of their games, $1, $1.25, $1.50, or $1.75 per game.

Cosmic Bowling — 9 p.m. to midnight, Saturday. — $2.50 per game.

Mother's Day special — Noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Moms can bowl three games free and receive a free shoe rental when accompanied by her children or spouse. The entire family bowls at regular open bowling rates. There will be no Rent-A-Lane.

Armed Forces Day special — 6 p.m. to midnight, May 20. All games for active duty and retired military cost $1.50 each. Family members and guests can bowl for $2 per game.

Family Bowl-a-Rama — 5 to 7 p.m, May 26. Bowl two hours with up to six family members on the lane for $12. The price includes shoes and one pitcher of soda. Lanes must be assigned from 5 to 7 pm.

Cosmic Bowling — 6 p.m. to midnight, May 27. Disco lights and music for the whole family for $2.50 per game.

Fitness center

Body fat/blood pressure check — The Health and Wellness Center will provide free check-ups from 8 to 9:30 a.m. today.

3-on-3 Basketball Competition — The fitness center is searching for the base's best three-person basketball team with a competition at 11 a.m. Monday.

Punt, Pass and Kick — The fitness center is searching for the base's best football player with a competition at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the base track.

For more information, contact the fitness center at 784-2466.

Youth sports

Instructional programs — Sign up for cheerleading, dance, yoga and preschool tumble at the youth center.

Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays and cost $30 per child.

Whispering Winds

Monday Night Scrambles — Nine hole scrambles begin at 5 p.m. Mondays for two-person teams. Handicaps will be used and players may pick their own partners.

Players must sign up by 3 p.m.

Tee Time Policy — Tee times will only be given to groups of three, four or five people on weekends or holidays.

Groups of five must have at least one electric cart per group. Singles or groups of two are encouraged to come out and try joining another group to make a three-, four-, or five-some.

If the course is not crowded, the counter attendant or course marshal may allow smaller groups to play.